

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02134 071031Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5454
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
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USEEC

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, AU
SUBJECT: U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH ILO
REF: STATE 038223

1. LABATT DISCUSSED U.S. RELATIONSHIP TO ILO WITH MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL (LABOR) AFFAIRS DIRECTOR FOR GENERAL SOCIAL POLICIES AND LABOR LAW, DR. OSIN MARTINEK, AND COUNSELOR DR. HEINZ MICHAEL MELAS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA, AND LATER WITH MFA/IO DIRECTOR RUDOFISKY AND AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR STROER. PAPER BASED ON TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL WAS LEFT WITH EACH.

2. ALL INTERLOCUTORS WERE SYMPATHETIC TO MOST U.S. POSITIONS AND DESIROUS OF EARLIEST POSSIBLE U.S. RETURN TO ILO. BOTH MARTINEK AND RUDOFISKY REITERATED STRONGLY HELD GOA VIEW, EXPRESSED BY SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER WEISSENBERG LAST MAY TO AFL-CIO TREASURER KIRKLAND, THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN ILO ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL OF
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 02134 071031Z

ORGANIZATION. ALL MINISTRY OFFICIALS THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT SOME RESTRUCTURING OF GOVERNING BOARD WAS NECESSARY TO SECURE THIRD WORLD SUPPORT OF OTHER U.S. AND WESTERN OBJECTIVES IN ILO AND WAS INEVITABLE IN ANY CASE, BUT THEY FELT THAT LINE COULD BE HELD BY EMPLOYER AND WORKER DIVISIONS. MELAS, WHOSE STRONG SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITIONS AT ILO MEETINGS LAST YEAR WORRIED SOME MFA/IO OFFICIALS

CONCERNED WITH AUSTRIA-THIRD WORLD RELATIONS, FEARED
THAT EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED U.S. OBJECTION TO SOME
MINIMAL STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN GOVERNING BOARD COULD PUSH
THIRD WORLD MEMBERS TOWARD OTHER STEPS IN ILO CONTRARY TO
THOSE DESIRED BY U.S., AUSTRIA, AND OTHER FREE MARKET
COUNTRIES. SUCH DEVELOPMENT THEREBY WOULD REDUCE FURTHER
CHANCES OF U.S. RETURN AND MAKE SITUATION OF AUSTRIA
AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC STATES IN ILO INCREASINGLY TENUOUS.
MELAS THOUGHT THAT IN ABSENCE OF PROMPT ACTION TO FULFILL
ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVES OF U.S. AND LIKE-MINDED ILO MEMBERS,
CHANCES OF U.S. BEING ABLE TO RETURN TO ILO WOULD
PROBABLY DIMINISH WITH TIME. WOLF

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Message Attributes

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